

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A traveling transmission apparatus for a work vehicle, comprising:

a stepless change-speed unit receiving power from an engine;
a gear transmission mechanism receiving power from the stepless change-speed unit and disposed rearwardly of the engine;

a rear-wheel differential mechanism receiving power from the gear transmission mechanism and disposed rearwardly of the engine; and

a transmission case accommodating the gear transmission mechanism and the rear-wheel differential mechanism and coupled to the rear of the engine;

wherein the stepless change-speed unit is disposed rearwardly of the gear transmission mechanism and rearwardly also of an output shaft of the rear-wheel differential mechanism;

the stepless change-speed unit being constructed as an HST including one hydraulic pump and first and second hydraulic motors;

a port block for the HST being detachably secured to an end of a rear opening of the transmission case for closing this opening, the hydraulic pump and the first hydraulic motor being attached to an inner face of the port block the second hydraulic motor being attached to an outer face of the port block.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein an auxiliary cover is attached to the outer face of the port block for covering said second hydraulic motor.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first hydraulic motor is a fixed displacement hydraulic motor and said second hydraulic motor is a variable displacement hydraulic motor.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 5, wherein an output shaft of said HST extends from this HST to said gear transmission mechanism, wherein

when a load applied to the HST output shaft is below a predetermined load, said second hydraulic motor is in its neutral position; and

when said load exceeds the predetermined load, said second hydraulic motor is switched over to its drive position.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A traveling transmission apparatus for a work vehicle, comprising:

a stepless change-speed unit receiving power from an engine;

a gear transmission mechanism receiving power from the stepless change-speed unit and disposed rearwardly of the engine;

a rear-wheel differential mechanism receiving power from the gear transmission mechanism and disposed rearwardly of the engine; and

a transmission case accommodating the gear transmission mechanism and the rear-wheel differential mechanism and coupled to the rear of the engine,

wherein the stepless change-speed unit is disposed rearwardly of the gear transmission mechanism and rearwardly also of an output shaft of the rear-wheel differential mechanism; and

the stepless change-speed unit being constructed as an HST including one hydraulic pump and a first hydraulic motor attached to a front face of a port block, and a second hydraulic motor attached to a rear face of the port block, said second hydraulic motor being a variable displacement hydraulic motor,

wherein an output shaft of said HST extends from this HST to said gear transmission mechanism,

wherein when a load applied to the HST output shaft is below a predetermined load, said second hydraulic motor is in its neutral position, and

wherein when said load exceeds the predetermined load, said second hydraulic motor is switched over to its drive position.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said first hydraulic motor is a fixed displacement hydraulic motor ~~and said second hydraulic motor is a variable displacement hydraulic motor.~~

Claim 9 (Cancelled).